

proceeds to use them upon all and sundry for the balance of his professional life, or until he can replace them by some newly-captured favorites.

While you study the cases which come under your care and train your faculties of observation and reflection, do not fail to acquaint yourselves with the results and opinions of others. Attend Medical Societies and Conventions, for there you come in contact with fellow-workers of riper experience, and mutual benefit is derived from criticising and being criticised. *Read diligently.* Read the current journals; they give you the latest news from the front; the pioneers of thought, the original workers and investigators are there, like pickets and skirmishers, spying out the land, sometimes advancing, sometimes retreating, sometimes gaining new positions, sometimes abandoning old ones no longer tenable. At all events it is news from the front, of absorbing interest, though subject to much alteration and correction, and not always trustworthy. In the text-books you find the solid ground that has been won. And so you perceive the professional army marching along; pickets, pioneers and skirmishers away at the front, busily exploring, prospecting, making roads and bridges; the rank and file with baggage and equipments moving more slowly, trying and proving the ground, testing the strength of roads and bridges. On they march with face ever to the front, fighting disease and death. Alas for the stragglers who face to the rear, who sleep by the way.

*Duties to patients.*—In the practice of your profession you have certain well-defined duties to your patients. There is in fact an implied contract between you. They on their part place confidence in you and trust you. In your hands are placed sometimes health and happiness, honor and reputation, the issues of life and death. You on your part, in accepting such grave responsibilities, are bound to possess and maintain a competent knowledge of your profession, to devote due care and attention to your patients, and exercise your best skill. In your professional relations, you will be admitted into the privacy of the family circle; in sickness the society mask is off and you will see poor humanity in all its weakness. You will know the shadows that darken many a home, the hidden sorrows that embitter many a life; weighty secrets, important